

Year Plan has projected that the total investment required for the Plan period (1990-91 to 1994-95) would be of the order of Rs. 77,500 crore of Rs. 15,500 crore per annum. No separate estimate of the resources required per annum for the further period has been made.

2. In addition to steps taken earlier, a number of fiscal incentives for investment in housing have been proposed in the Budget for 1991-92.

3. In keeping with the thrust of the draft National Housing Policy, the Government would play a catalytic, promotional and facilitative role to encourage larger investment in housing by the private sector, cooperatives and individuals. Towards this end, several measures are envisaged which include amendment of the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, finalisation of the National Housing Policy, amendments in the Rent Control Act, amendment of the constitution to enable setting up of Rent Tribunals, streamlining and rationalisation of stamp duty and registration procedures etc.

Cutting Of Forests By State Forest Corporations

*402. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the union Government propose to stop the cutting of forests by the State Forest Corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to stop Podu cultivation/shifting cultivation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). There is no proposal of the Central Government to stop harvesting of matured crop by the Forest Corporations in the States with a view to discontinue the sale of timber. However, the Central Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments asking them to consider imposing certain restrictions on felling of trees.

The Forest Policy 1988 lays emphasis on environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance, and in keeping with this principal aim, in the guidelines, Government of India have asked the State Governments to consider banning felling of trees in hills above 1000 meters, at least for some years. In very special cases, however, where such fellings are inevitable for silvicultural considerations for restoration of natural regeneration, it is restricted to 10 ha. in the hills, and 25 ha. in the plains.

(c) and (d). Government of India, through the Ministry of Agriculture, have been providing Central Assistance to the State Governments for implementation of a scheme for control of shifting cultivation.

Death Due To T.B.

*403. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons die of T.B. every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the death rate in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra is high;